

# JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD 2018 ANNUAL REPORT

#### The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice,

Designated State Agency for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (1974, as amended)

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## MESSAGE FROM THE JUVENILE JUSTICE ADVISORY BOARD

Dear Governor Bevin and Legislative Research Committee,

On behalf of the Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB), we are honored to present to you and the Kentucky General Assembly, the **2017 – 2018 Juvenile Justice Advisory Boards' (JJAB) Annual Report**. This document is reflective of many efforts of caring people across the State who are committed to improving opportunities for youth that may assist in their growing into productive and socially responsible adults.

This Board, appointed through your office, is responsible for bringing varied and diverse perspectives to the table. Collectively, these members provide insight, input and proposed recommendations for juvenile justice, fostering best practices for the areas of prevention, intervention and system's improvements for productive outcomes.

As participants of the Federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (1974, as amended), the Board continues to support efforts that allow the State to remain attentive to and in compliance with the core promises and necessary mandates of the Act. Department of Juvenile Justice staff, responsible for oversight and monitoring of compliance with the requirements of the Act, work in conjunction with the Board, informing members of compliance status and potential problems or concerns. Since initial entry into the agreement, Kentucky has remained in good standing and remains in compliance today; adjusting, accordingly, as responsibilities and expectations for participation in the JJDPA (1974, as amended) change.

The JJAB looks forward to the future and its' continuing support for quality improvements throughout the juvenile justice continuum. We anticipate on-going partnerships with the Governor's office, the legislature, the judiciary, and other youth serving agencies across Kentucky; working together to provide the best services possible for youth, families and communities throughout our State.

I am hopeful you find this report informative, encouraging and that it provides you with greater understanding for key elements of focus and direction that the Board has pursued over the past year. We are appreciative of your on-going support.

Respectfully,

Ida Dickie, Ph.D.

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## The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (1974, as amended)

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Established in 1974, and most recently reauthorized in 2002, the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA) embodies a partnership between the U.S. federal government and the states and territories to protect children and youth in the juvenile and criminal justice system, adequately address delinquent behaviors and improve community safety by preventing juvenile crime and delinquency. The Act established the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, to support local and state efforts to prevent delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system.

The Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act's goals are to prevent and reduce juvenile delinquency and improve the juvenile justice system, by ensuring appropriate sanctions and services, due process, proper treatment and safe confinement for juveniles who are involved in the juvenile justice system.

#### The JJDPA provides for:

- A U.S. National juvenile justice planning and advisory system in all states, territories, and the District of Columbia;
- Federal Funding for delinquency prevention and juvenile justice system's improvement and state and/or local programs; and
- Operation of a federal agency the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) that:
  - Collaborates with professionals from diverse disciplines to improve juvenile justice policies and practices;
  - Supports states, local communities, and tribal jurisdictions in their efforts to develop and implement effective programs for juveniles;
  - Strives to strengthen the juvenile justice system's efforts to protect public safety, hold offenders accountable, and provide services that address the needs of youth and their families;
  - Sponsors research, program, and training initiatives; develops priorities and goals and sets policies to guide federal juvenile justice issues; and,
  - Disseminates information about juvenile justice issues; and awards funds to states to support local programming.

Under the JJDPA, each state must have a State Advisory Group (SAG) on juvenile justice, submit a three-year state plan for carrying out the purpose of the Act, and implement the Act's Four Core Requirements/Protections at the state and local level.



#### JJDPAct: The Four (4) Core Requirements

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

#### **Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders (DSO)**

Status offenses are charges that only juveniles can receive and would not be considered criminal if committed by an adult. The most common status offenses include truancy, running away, and beyond control.

Federal guidelines require that states do not place adjudicated status offenders in secure detention or secure correctional facility, apart from those permitted by statutory and regulatory exceptions as allowed by the JJDPA. Violations occur when accused status offenders are held in secure juvenile detention centers for more than 24 hours, excluding weekends and holidays; and when adjudicated status offenders are held for any length of time, in either these facilities, or any adult jail or municipal lock up.

#### Sight and Sound Separation of Juvenile and Adult Offenders

Federal regulations prohibit the detainment of any juvenile in any facility in which they have contact with adult inmates. Kentucky Revised Statute 610.220 states: Any child held in custody shall be sight and sound separated from any adult prisoners held in secure custody at the same location.

#### Jail Removal

Kentucky law prohibits the placement of any juvenile offender in adult jail facilities (KRS 640.030) and also imposes a stricter time limit than that of the JJDPA for the holding of a juvenile in adult lockup facilities (police and sheriff's departments); regardless of custody level (KRS 610.220).

#### **Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC)**

Federal guidelines require that states maintain delinquency prevention programs and system improvement efforts that are designed to reduce the disproportionate number of juvenile minority groups who come into contact with the juvenile justice system.



## The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) (Kentucky's State Advisory Group (SAG)

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

#### 2018 Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Organizational Structure

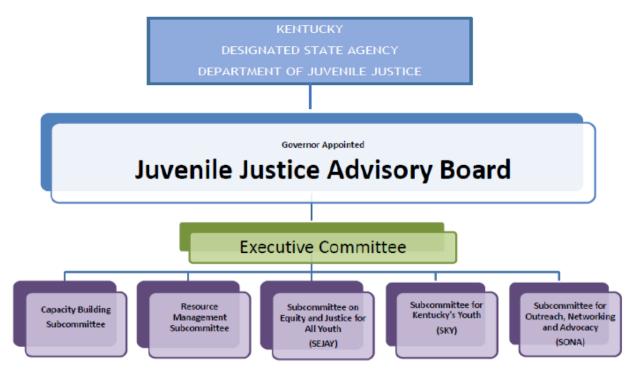


Diagram 1: 2017 Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board Structure

#### MISSION STATEMENT

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board is committed to enhancing the quality of life for all youth in the Commonwealth by actively advising the Governor, policymakers and the public on matters related to improving systems of care and promoting effective programming necessary to serve the whole child.

#### **VISION STATEMENT**

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board aspires to make a difference in the lives of Kentucky youth and their families by being the voice of youth.



#### Juvenile Justice Advisory Board: Membership

Members of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) are appointed by the Governor. Positions are mandated by KRS 15A.065, initially intended to reflect the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act requirements. Pursuant to federal law, the Board shall contain no less than 15 and no more than 33 members. A majority of the members cannot be full-time government employees and at-least one-fifth of the membership must be the age of twenty-four or below at the time of appointment. The Chair of the Board is elected by the Board and must be a non-governmental member. The following is the membership that was current on October 1, 2018 (additional appointments and changes occurred following this date).

Last Name	First Name	KRS 105A.065 and/or JJDPA Membership Position Required	
Miller	Dr. Justin "Jay"	(Chairperson) Youth Advocate/Alumni-Civilian	
Bardonaro	Alexys	Youth/Civilian	
Bingham	Rachel	Judicial Juvenile Branch/State Government	
Byer	Joan	Youth Advocate/Civilian	
Christman	Justin	Youth Civilian/Alumni	
Cutter	Mary Lou	Family-Parent/Civilian	
Cockerell	Carey	Department of Juvenile Justice (Commissioner)	
DeJarnatt	Rebecca	Prevention Specialist/Local Government	
Dickie	Ida (Dr.)	College-University/Civilian	
Edwards	Glenda	Advocacy State Agency/Government	
Galloway	Cameron	Youth/Civilian	
Gordan	Dalton	Youth/Alumni-Civilian	
Gardner	Shelby	Youth/Civilian	
Jones	Greg	Law Enforcement/Local Government	
Johnson	Adria	Child Welfare State Agency/Government	
Kilgore	Michele	Mental Health State Agency/Government	
Krueger	Maggie	Family-Parent/Civilian	
Lewis	Jacinda	Mental Health/Civilian	
Milliken	Amy Hale	County Attorney/County Government	
Minor	Jontae	Youth/Civilian	
Oakley	Michele	Special Education/Local Government	
Palmer	Edward	Private Non-Profit/Part-time Local Government	
Pedigo	Paula	Business Community/Civilian	
Prater	Jana'	Victim of Youth Crime/Civilian	
Scott	George	JJ State Agency/Alumni-Government	
Shumate	Kim	Judicial/Government	
Stiltner	Rick	Judicial/Government	
Templin	Kaye	Alternatives to Detention/Civilian	
Ward	Julie Reinhardt	Judicial/Government	
Weeter	Christina	Education Administration/State Government	
Wright	Glenda	Youth/State Agency Government	



#### 2018 - 2020 Kentucky State Plan: Three-Year Strategic Planning Goals

- Goal 1: Develop and sustain a viable, accountable and well-functioning advisory board.
- Goal 2: Continually assess and address needs associated with juvenile justice issues in Kentucky.
- Goal 3: Serve as the leading resource for best practices, including prevention models and strategies that advance the mission of the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board.
- Goal 4: Advance equity for minority youth groups, related to juvenile justice system involvement and service provisions.
- Goal 5: Build the overall capacity for individuals, groups and communities to address issues related to juvenile justice.
- Goal 6: Ensure compliance with all four (4) core requirements of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPAct).

## Kentucky Designated State Agency: State Advisory Board Collaborative

The Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the Governor-appointed Designated State Agency (DSA) responsible for oversight of the mandated requirements and associated funding for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA). As required by the Act, the DJJ supports a Juvenile Justice Specialist (JJS) who is assigned to the oversight of the JJDPA; driving the work outlined in the plan and assuring compliance with the required mandates. This individual, along with other appointed staff (Compliance Monitor and DMC Coordinator, also supported through the DJJ), serve as an informational resource, program or project administrators and monitors, as well as the State's technical assistance provider for all JJDPA-related needs; working collaboratively with the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) and local communities to assure their input in the development of the States' plan and the promotion or activation of the objectives or tasks outlined in this plan.



### 2017 - 2018 Title II Formula Grant Funding: Programs and Projects Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Kentucky had available four (4) federal funding years of available Title II Formula funds for use during the past federal funding year (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018). The available funds are outlined in Table 1, below.

Table 1: JJDPA Title II Formula Grants - 2017 - 2018 Active Federal Funding Summary

TITLE II	FFY 2013-14	FFY 2015	FFY 2016	FFY 2017
PROGRAM AREA	(Closes 9-1-2019)	(Closes 9-1-2019)	(Closes 9-1-2019)	(Closes 9-1-2020)
50/50	Federal :\$ 16,000	Federal: \$ 6,000	Federal \$ 6,000	Federal \$ 6,000
Administrative	Match: \$ 16,000	Match: \$ 6,000	Match: \$ 6,000	Match: \$ 6,000
Requirement				
ADMINISTRATION				
STATE ADVISORY	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 20,000
GROUP				
JUVENILE		<b>.</b>		
JUSTICE	-	\$ 66,432	\$ 108,792	\$ 30,820
SYSTEMS				
IMPROVEMENT GRANTS				
PROGRAMS &	\$ 160,000	\$ 398,108	\$ 408,698	\$ 414,205
PROJECTS	7 100,000	\$ 370,100	\$ 100,070	7 11 1,203
(Focus:				
Delinquency				
Prevention & DMC)				
ALTERNATIVES	Ć ((2 F74			
TO DETENTION	\$ 663,574	-	-	-
PRISON RAPE				
ELIMINATION	\$ 24,972	_	_	_
ACT	7 2 1,77 2			
(PREA)				
TOTAL				
TITLE II				
FUNDING	\$ 884,546	\$ 490,539	\$ 543,490	\$ 471,025
DISTRIBUTIONS				
TO KENTUCKY				



Remaining consistent with the proposed Kentucky three-year strategic plan, the Juvenile Justice Advisory Board maintained the recommendations for support of Delinquency Prevention projects and program funding, for at-risk and low-level offenders, with focus on disproportionate minority contact always considered in the Kentucky Delinquency Prevention and System's Improvement efforts. Funding for grant projects were disbursed through a competitive bidding process and awarded to organizations throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Table 2 (below) summarizes the funding distributions to local communities during the 2017 – 2018 funding cycle (October 1, 2017 – September 30, 2018).

Table 2: 2017 - 2018 Title II Local Community Funding Distributions

AGENCY	COUNTY SERVED	FFY	FFY	FFY
PROGRAM/PROJECT	FOCUS AREA	2013-14	2015	2016
	Hardin			
Western Kentucky University		\$ 15,530	-	-
Project: BRIDGES Council	DMC			
	Jefferson			
University of Louisville		\$ 22,981	-	-
Project: Local DMC Assessment	DMC			
	Jefferson	*		
Spalding College	5116	\$ 22,882	-	-
Project: Civil Citation Pilot Project	DMC			
hattanta fan Cananasian in hatia	Fayette		Ć 43 33E	
Institute for Compassion in Justice	DMC	-	\$ 43,325	-
Project: DMC Project	DMC Campbell,			
Children's Home of Northern Kentucky	Kenton, Boone			\$ 75,000
Program: Pillars of Hope	Prevention	-	-	\$ 75,000
Flogram. Fillars of Hope	Clinton &			
Foothills Academy, Inc.	Wayne	_	_	\$ 51,500
Program: Collaboration & Prevention Supports	Prevention	_	_	\$ 51,500
110gram: conaporation a rievention supports	Fayette			
Lexington-Fayette Urban County	rayette	-	-	\$ 20,000
Program: No Limits to Success	Prevention			¥ ==,===
	Hopkins			
Light of Chance, Inc.	•	-	-	\$ 64,000
Program: Breathe Youth Arts Program	Prevention			,
-	McCreary			
McCreary County Schools		-	-	\$ 4,500
Program: Positive Supports/Life Skills	Prevention			
	Trimble			
Trimble County Public Schools		-	-	\$ 11,000
Program: Life Skills Project	Prevention			
	Jefferson			
YMCA Safe Place		-	-	\$ 75,000
Program: Opportunity Program	Prevention			
TOTAL ACTIVE EEDERAL EUNIDING AMOUNTS				
TOTAL ACTIVE FEDERAL FUNDING AMOUNTS:		\$ 67,393	\$ 43,393	\$ 301,000

2017 - 2018 Federal Funding Cycle Local Program/Projects Funding Distribution Total: \$ 411,786



## 2017 - 2018 Title II Funded Program and Project Descriptions

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

Organizations funded through the Title II Formula Grant funding are require to meet and maintain a variety of State and/or Federal agreements and requirements, as a part of their grant contract. Each granted agency is required to maintain active contact with the assigned Designated Agency Staff and to engage in the grant administration orientation, program site visits, and any applicable financial or programmatic audits. In addition, each program is responsible for submission of the prescribed quarterly reports, which support the necessary reporting components for the mandatory annual report submitted to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

Following are the descriptions for the 2017 – 2018 funding programs and projects through Title II Formula Grant funds in the past year:

#### DMC FUNDED PROGRAMS/PROJECTS

#### Western Kentucky University - Hardin County BRIDGES Council

This funded project is in its third year of continuation funding. The funding supports the implementation of a restorative justice program that serves four (4) local schools in the Hardin county school district. This program is offered as an alternative for youth as participants of the teen court, in Hardin County. The BRIDGES council also conducted events for youth, community members and agencies that promoted dialogue about their experiences. Agency staff worked to build resources and offer opportunities to provide expertise on DMC and juvenile justice issues throughout this community.

#### University of Louisville - Jefferson County Local DMC Project

This funded project was supported in order to allow Louisville Metro to acquire a local DMC assessment, from which could promote and support the direction of the local Louisville DMC efforts. The projected was intended to examine the local Relative Rate Index data and the contributing mechanism originally reported through the State DMC assessment that was completed previously. This research was established to focus on the referrals obtained through the school system and those obtained through law enforcement, as well as examining the cases detained contact point.

#### **Spalding University – Civil Citation Pilot Project**

This funded project was supported in order to allow the city of Louisville to examine, further, the viability and potential for the institution of a civil citation process and practice in their community. The decision to pursue this option was based on a previous assessment conducted in Louisville that indicated in order to mitigate the presence of



DMC, it would be necessary to address the processes and practices that exist at the front end of the juvenile justice continuum, at the law enforcement or "arrest" contact point. This project is an extension of previously Title II funded efforts that focused on research and examination of existing civil citation programs. The purpose for pursuing this modality of intervention was to allow for the early identification of youth-related issues and to address the underlying causes of misconduct of youth. This model also supports ensuring that youth are held accountable for their actions at the earliest stages of their involvement with the juvenile justice system, through a response designed to discourage future offenses. A civil citation model connects youth and families with appropriate services, when necessary, allowing for youthful offenders to potentially avoid a criminal record. A program, as such, would support a significant cost-savings to a community, by decreasing cost associated with arrest and formal prosecution. This funding was guided to support assessment of non-therapeutic community-based organizations and staff in three targeted Louisville Metro Police Department divisions, to determine the current needs of front line staff for training and services delivery.

#### Institute for Compassion in Justice - Fayette County DMC Project

This is a continuation project, previously supported through Title II funding for a number of years, previously. Through a community partnership with the West End Community Empowerment group, this project was funded to support a community-based alternative to detention for targeted youth, in the form of an Evening Reporting Center (ERC). It was intended to provide constructive leisure, educational support and life skill development activities and transportation, during after-school hours (3 p.m.- 9 p.m. and other out-of-school time), to promote positive community engagement and youth development.

#### **DELINQUENCY PREVENTION PROGRAMS/PROJECTS**

#### Children's Home of Northern Kentucky - Pillars of Hope

The Pillars of Hope is a second-year continuation program. This program continued with providing on-site prevention based approaches in select schools located in northern Kentucky, for youth ages 10-14. This program continued to utilize trauma-informed approaches with the youth they serve. They provided an in-depth in-service training on trauma informed care and interventions for the school personnel that within the schools that they provide programs to, in order to create and maintain collaborative relationships conducive to providing better service and support to the youth with mental health needs. Services focused on needs of youth who had experienced grief and loss, youth are in and out of home care, youth with incarcerated parents, youth with low distress tolerance or self-esteem; in helping them to understand healthy boundaries, with a focus on safety and understanding of emotions through expressive interventions which continued to include the Healthy RHYTHMS Drumming program.



#### Foothills Academy, Inc. - Collaboration & Prevention Supports

The CAPS (Collaboration and Prevention Supports) is a first-year Title II funded project. The program provided youth with prevention and support activities, through collaboration within the community, providing resources and skills that assists in keep them from entering the juvenile justice system. Each client/family will receives between one-to-four hours of direct service per week, depending on treatment recommendations. Services are based off of a varied assortment of evidence-based programs/services including prevention education, individual therapy, group therapy/education, mentoring, after-school programs, pro-social activities, parenting group, case management, and/or follow-up services.

#### Lexington-Fayette - No Limits to Success Program

The No Limits to Success was a first year delinquency prevention program, servicing high risk youth and status offenders. It was established as an after school program for the Fayette County Public schools, situated locally within walking distance of the Tate's Creek middle school and high school. The location of this program was one of its' prime benefits to the youth and the community, because of its' accessibility to the population needed served. The ages of the youth served in this program were predominantly between 10 and 14 years of age, with a fairly equal balance of males and females who were participants. Eighty-two percent (82%) of the youth served through this program were African-American, while another eleven percent (11%) were noted as being biracial youth. The remainder of the population were white (2%), Pacific Islander (1%) and "Other" for the remaining four percent (4%) of the total youth served during the grant cycle; a total of 115 youth. Although there were a couple of youth who selfreferred themselves to this program, the majority of referrals were received from parents, directly, followed by school referrals; with only a few being received through the court designated worker program. Program interventions utilized during the duration of this funding cycle include, but are not limited to: Homework assistance, parenting sessions, group counseling, educational workshops, field trips and a couple of case management, but not extensive. In two cases, support for the youth finding gainful employment was provided.

#### Light of Chance - Breathe Arts Program

The Breathe Youth Arts Program is a second-year continuation program. This program continued with their practice of providing free after school and summer arts program opportunities for youth ages 10-17 in Hopkins County, Kentucky. Breathe is a community-based, youth development program run by the non-profit organization, Light of Chance, Inc. It is geared towards fostering artistic expression, leadership and social skills through visual arts, music, dance and creative writing. Although no previous arts



experience or specific talents are required, the Breathe Youth Arts Program successfully cultivates creativity for its students while providing a positive environment for youth to express themselves, engage in important issues, and experience personal and social transformation through the arts. Providing a constructive and creative outlet, the program encourages cooperation and teamwork. It teaches artistic and social skills, while providing a setting where youth are valued and celebrated. The program youth worked collaboratively with a local community project to create the mural art work that became the centerpiece of the city's indoor skate park project. The program had the goal to establish more intensive therapeutic work with youth of trauma through the institution of a trauma-informed yoga program component for future programming, in the years to come.

#### McCreary County - Positive Supports/Life Skills Program

McCreary Academy used the Positive Action curriculum as a means to assist at risk youths, to assist them in lowering their odds for entering into the juvenile justice system. Through the utilization of the Positive Action curriculum, purchased with the Title II funding awarded, we were able to provide an evidenced-based program that promotes intrinsic interest, personal accountability and cooperation among students. The program consists of several curriculum topics that focus on specific issues such as:

- Self-Concept;
- Keeping a healthy body and mind;
- Managing yourself responsibly;
- Treating others the way you like to be treated;
- Being honest with yourself and others;
- Continuous self-improvement

#### Trimble County - Life Skills Program

The Trimble County Prevention program was a first-year recipient of the Title II delinquency prevention funding. It utilized the Life Skills evidence-based curriculum, purchased with the Title II grant funding awarded, to work with at-risk youth for the goal of addressing substance abuse prevention. The implementation of the curriculum work was established to begin in January, after delays were experienced due to purchasing and school breaks. The work was conducted with approximately 410 youth who were in  $3^{rd} - 8^{th}$  grade. This grant also allowed for individual case management to be offered to for students with greater need, as well. Mentoring was conducted with referred students from middle school and/or elementary school levels, during school hours, by the hired Prevention Coordinator. The program reported that during the time that this program was administered, data indicated a decrease in truancy and behavioral incidences in all participating schools, compared to the previous year.



#### YMCA Safe Place - Opportunity Program

The Opportunity Program is a second year continuation grant that focuses on a prevention-based case management model and is comprised of three (3) different programs; elementary youth who have an incarcerated parent/caregiver, middle school youth who have been identified as truant, but not yet referred to court and 5<sup>th</sup> graders who are transitioning into 6<sup>th</sup> grade during the summer months. The programs served youth ages 9 – 14. The YNOW and Truancy Court Diversion programs each met once a week, for ten 10 week sessions. The Truancy Courts are held at identified school sites within the Jefferson County Public Schools. The programs focus on providing safe places for targeted youth, providing support and engaging youth in constructive leisure activities and conversations that deal with the situations they are facing as youth of an incarcerated parent or a truant youth, along with the other family issues that accompany these two populations. All of the programs work with the schools to track grades and attendance, and behavior as reported by parents. The program utilizes volunteers effectively, to allow for the provision of services to these youth, along with additional partnerships with the Centerstone counseling services and the Jefferson County Family Court.

#### **2018**

#### TITLE II FORMULA GRANT AWARDS

The following projects were selected through a competitive grants application and review process, to be funded for the October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019 federal funding cycle. Effective October 1, 2018, all funded Title II Formula Grant program/projects are required to include and focus some aspect of their efforts on both, disproportionate minority contact and substance abuse/use prevention or intervention. The agencies and programs funded are as follows:

<u>Grantee</u>	<u>County</u>
<u>Program/Project</u>	Program Status
Western Kentucky University	Hardin County
Project: Hardin County BRIDGES Council	Continuation Project
Children's Home of Northern Kentucky	Boone, Kenton, Campbell Counties
Program:: Pillars of Support	Continuation Project
Foothills Academy: CAPS	Clinton and Wayne Counties
Program: Collaboration and Prevention Support	Continuation Project
Hope Hill, Inc Family Connection	Bath County
Program: The Finding Hope Initiative	New Project
Light of Chance: Breathe	Hopkins County
Program: Breathe Youth Arts Program	Continuation Project
YMCA Safe Place	Jefferson County
Program: Safe Place Services: Opportunity Program	Continuation Project (Final Year)



## 2018 JJAB Sponsored Awards: Spirit of Youth Award

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

#### SPIRIT OF YOUTH AWARD RECIPIENT

#### Candace A. Wagner



The Spirit of Youth Award is given annually, to recognize and celebrate a young person, under the age of 28, who has made great strides in overcoming personal challenges experienced early in life. The award recipient represents an individual who now, as a result of their experiences, is contributing to their community and its' young people in a productive way.

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB) chose *Candace Arlene Wagner* of Butler, Kentucky (Pendleton County)

as the 2018 Spirit of Youth Award recipient. She was nominated for this award by Brenda Higgins and Matt Compton. Mr. Compton indicated that 'Candace has not let her difficult experiences define her. She has 'risen above every obstacle that has been put in her way and now sets an example for younger youth who experience similar difficulties.' He continued, "today, Candace she is mentoring younger youth at her

school, setting an example for good decision-making and showing a willingness to share her story, so others may learn from it." Candace expresses an interest in becoming a substance abuse counselor in the future and is currently working on a Certified Nursing Assistant (CAN) certification.





#### 2017-2018 Recommendations

Kentucky Juvenile Justice Advisory Board

The Juvenile Justice Advisory Board (JJAB), is proposing the following recommendations to the entities outlined in legislation: the Governor, the Justice Cabinet's Department of Juvenile Justice, the Legislature, the Judiciary and other youth service advocacy agencies throughout the Commonwealth.

Provide support for and promotion of:

- Mandatory utilization of evidence-based practices, that include an assurance of viable evaluation and monitoring of outcomes, for all recommended programs or projects throughout the juvenile justice continuum, including those funded under the Title II Formula Grant program of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPA).
- The acquisition and maintenance of a comprehensive, usable and equally accessible data based, for all youth-serving agencies responsible for juvenile justice assessment, prevention, intervention, monitoring and/or evaluation, and system's improvement.
- The collection and utilization of data regarding the experiences and perceptions of juveniles who are currently in or have had contact with the juvenile justice system, as well as families or guardians of these same or similar youth; to inform recommendations and actions for system's development and improvement for the State.
- Development and promotion of focused community resources and processes, through capacity building and infrastructure development or sustainment.
- Equitable access to programs, opportunities and treatment for minority youth throughout the juvenile justice continuum.